

## BROWARD SELF-ACCUSED

When Napoleon B. Broward proclaims on the stump that he is being abused and misrepresented by his opponents and critics he should be reminded that the severest charge against his official character has come from his own lips.

The governor, of course, denies the utterance of the language attributed to him at Gainesville, but the News and the fair-minded people of Florida will have no hesitancy whatever in accepting the word of the reputable citizens of Gainesville who heard him make the statement; and, furthermore, Congressman Frank Clark has openly challenged the governor to debate with him on the stump the question whether or not he did say it. Mr. Clark offering to prove conclusively that the identical language was used.

By saying at Gainesville that he appointed a board to select a site for the state university with the full knowledge that it would select Gainesville as such site, and, that in fact, he made the appointments with that end in view; and that, while thus "packing a jury," for that is just what it amounted to, he personally voted for and advocated Lake City, thus adding duplicity to nefarious cunning, the governor indicted himself of an act that is little short of a crime.

Here was a great public question, involving the location of the state university—an honor for which two cities were struggling, and in which contest both sides had a right to expect fair play. The governor had proclaimed himself a friend of Lake City in the fight, and Lake City trusted him and expected his favor. While thus publicly espousing Lake City, the governor, according to his own statement, mind you, connived to secure the honor for Gainesville—connived with all the secret machination of the fellow who "fixes" a jury.

No wonder, as Frank Clark says, the people of Gainesville who heard this astounding admission hung their heads in shame, surprise and mortification to hear the governor of their state confess such duplicity!

The statement was undoubtedly made to secure Gainesville votes in his candidacy for the senate. But Lake City could not be kept in ignorance of the utterance of the governor. The news traveled fast, and Lake City was not long in hearing of it. Then Lake City, in its injured innocence, got to work. It investigated and it became convinced that the governor did use the language quoted.

Thus, the governor, in sowing the wind at Gainesville, has reaped the whirlwind in Lake City, in Gainesville, and likewise throughout the entire state. There are several considerations which must figure in the agitation.

Either:  
The governor told the truth at Gainesville, in which event he stands convicted of prejudging, pre-"fixing" the decision of an important board on a great state question ostensibly advocating the other side;

Or, the governor did not tell the truth at Gainesville, in which event he stands convicted of falsifying his own record in order to gain votes.

And, in either event, the governor finds himself in a most unenviable position, placed there by his own lack of ordinary political wisdom, by his own incapacity for handling great questions, by his utter unfitness to appear before the people in an important public capacity.

The News is inclined to the belief that the governor did not tell the truth at Gainesville. The News believes that the governor expected the board to select Lake City as the site for the university, and that he appointed it with that end in view. But the governor, it appears, was mistaken in how at least one member of the board—T. B. King of Arcadia—would vote on the subject. He thought that King was such a friend of his that he would join him in his desire to win the honor for Lake City; but King had been a student at Gainesville, and he voted that way. The governor, up against a proposition of proclaimed enmity to Gainesville, went to Gainesville to speak, and he was not possessed of sufficient political common sense to avoid a transparent attempt to curry favor in that city by giving out an impression that, while openly for Lake City, he was secretly and effectively for Gainesville. The more closely the discerning citizens studies the acts and utterances of N. B. Broward, the more thoroughly convinced must be that his elevation to any high office must necessarily have been the veriest political accident. Surely a man who could make such a spectacle of himself as the governor made at Gainesville could not, by any proper process of popular reasoning, have been elected governor of Florida.

The people who elected Broward governor certainly did so without knowing the man and without giving proper consideration to his candidacy and his capability for the high position.

And surely a man who thus exposes himself to the fire of the popular

indignation of his own people, would, as a United States senator from Florida, bring upon his state either the reproach or the ridicule of the republic.—Tampa News.

## State of Florida,

### Alachua County:

Each of us whose names are hereto subscribed, each for himself and not for one another, being by me first duly sworn, deposes and says: That he was present in the court house in Gainesville, Florida, on Thursday, April 9, A. D. 1908, and heard Governor N. B. Broward deliver his speech in the interest of his candidacy for the United States senate. That in substance and in effect, the said Broward did say that while he did vote to locate the university of the state of Florida at Lake City, he so arranged the board of control that Gainesville would get the university.

(Signed): A. J. DaCosta, C. M. Dell, J. H. Colson, J. H. Jarvis, D. B. Morris, S. M. Davis, H. H. McCreary, Jno. B. Dell, F. M. Presvitt, W. G. Liddle, E. L. Cushman, E. G. Baxter.

Sworn to and subscribed before me on this the 16th day of May, A. D. 1908.

F. W. FIELDING,  
Notary Public, State of Florida at Large.

## USES A PALM LEAF FAN

Last week Claude L'Engle published a piece in the Telegraph in which he all but expressed fear that Gilchrist would open a saloon in the capitol building when he is elected governor. This was just one of Claude's suspicions. It wasn't a direct charge and he wasn't satisfied with his effort, so he comes again this week with some terrible direct accusations against the next governor. He says this man Gilchrist sits in a rocking chair, eats pindars and fans with a palm leaf fan. Ain't this awful to think about, fellow countrymen! Just think of a man who wants to be governor sittin' up in a rocking chair and eatin' goobers! But he does worse. He actually fans with a fan. It's simply awful! That's all there is to it; and Mr. L'Engle deserves a vote of thanks from the people of the state for sounding this note of warning in the nick of time.—Starke Telegraph.

## NERVOUSNESS

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General Gilchrist was speaker of the house of representatives in 1905. Because he did not sit bolt upright in a straight-back chair during the entire sixty days Editor L'Engle has arrived at the conclusion that he is thereby wanting in dignity and is disqualified from performing the functions of the gubernatorial office in a dignified manner. Do tell! Judge Bullock is regarded as one of the most graceful and dignified judges in Florida, and yet during the sessions of the court he uses a rocking chair. No member of the bar has criticized him for so doing. It is no longer regarded undignified to be comfortable. Even churches are now provided with comfortable seats, stoves in winter and electric fans in summer. General Gilchrist made another awful break in the eyes of Editor L'Engle. He actually ate peanuts while the legislature was in session. But the voters of the state can afford to overlook this breach of etiquette if the fact can be established that he did not eat his ice cream with a spoon. The fact that he ate it with a fork will go to prove the fact that he has all the social graces down to a point. Yes, General Gilchrist has the habit of democratic simplicity, but at a social function he knows how to put on the togs.

Following the ceremonies incident to the placing of the remains of Emile Zola, the noted socialist defender of Major Alfred Dreyfus, in their final resting place in the Pantheon in Paris, M. Gregori, military editor of Le Gaulois, left the band of newspaper men with whom he had been talking, and, stepping quickly beside Major Dreyfus, pulled a revolver from his coat-pocket and fired two shots point blank at the officer. The first shot went wild, but the second passed through the hand of Major Dreyfus, inflicting an ugly and painful wound. Immediately those nearest the would-be assassin seized upon him and in his frantic efforts to escape and the beating the crowd administered before the gendarmes could form a cordon around him, his clothes were torn into shreds and he was severely bruised.

## MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE

### OFFER NO PROOFS OF CHARGES

Jacksonville, Fla., June 4, 1908.

Rev. Dr. W. E. Boggs, Jacksonville, Fla.:

My Dear Dr. Boggs—The Ocala Star of June 3, in reporting an address delivered by Rev. J. W. Bigham, in the interest of Mr. John N. C. Stockton, has the following:

"He detailed how the Jacksonville Ministers' Union got possession of the fact that large sums of money were being sent into the state to elect Gilchrist. Said the sum up to a few weeks ago was \$360,000; that Rev. Dr. Boggs, whose character was unimpeachable, unearthed this story. It was this fact that made the ministers of the gospel in Jacksonville band together and go forth to battle for temperance in this campaign."

As you know, I am in charge of General Gilchrist's Jacksonville headquarters. This is only one of many untruthful statements which Mr. Bigham has made in his zealous work for Mr. Stockton. Since he has used your name, I would like to know whether or not you can give me your authority for the knowledge Mr. Bigham claims you possess as to this \$360,000.

I am writing you and reserving a copy for publication. This letter and your reply will be published to the voters throughout the state.

Thanking you in advance for the favor, I have the honor to remain,

Yours very truly,  
J. O. LAFONTISEE.

325 Newnan St., June 4, 1908.

Mr. J. O. LaFontisee, Gen. Gilchrist's Headquarters, City:

My Dear Mr. LaFontisee—Returning to my home somewhat later than usual I find your favor of even date lying on my desk. In this note, after quoting words from the Ocala Star, you proceed in this fashion: "As you know, I am in charge of General Gilchrist's headquarters in Jacksonville." Now, my friend, I must differ from you as to this precise point, begging your pardon. I did not know that you were in any such place at all, or engaged in any such business whatever, until you were good enough to inform me as to the facts in this letter now lying before me. And, as a sincere well wisher of yours, I am really sorry to learn that you are there, and doing as you say, for, unless I am greatly mistaken, by the time that the good people of Florida have rendered their decision on that very corruption fund and the free distribution of whiskey for the purpose of turning votes to Gen. Gilchrist, both you and your friend, the general, will be more in need of headquarters than of headquarters, and the waking up to this fact will probably make both of you sadder as well as wiser men.

But you continue your comments on the situation, as it has been given you (I do not venture to say by whom) to see it, in such unparliamentary words as these: "This is only one of many untruthful statements Mr. Bigham has made." Now, Mr. LaFontisee, those wicked fellows, the lawyers, have a saying which runneth somewhat in this fashion: "When an attorney loseth his temper the client loseth his case and his money."

And, besides, though you are a young man to be using such words about a man; or is it two men? old enough to be your father, yet you are neither so young nor so verdant as to be ignorant of the fact that in that world in which you live and transact your business, words of this sort are generally answered in a very different way from the one now employed by me. I am here to answer for myself in such manner as may become my years, not to say my profession, but it would not surprise me if among the many friends of my honored brother, Mr. Bigham, there may be some younger men, and more of your temper than I, who will be inclined to say: "You are another," and may be ready to do other foolish things.

You ask me to oblige you by giving information about that corruption fund, but really, r. LaFontisee, you are, when properly at yourself, a right bright young man. And, therefore, you know perfectly well by the use of such unparliamentary expressions about my friend, and presumably about me also, you have forfeited all claims to my courtesy. You have broken the rules of the game, my boy, and are thereby a sort of outcast. But I intend to play the magnanimous this time—possibly because it suits me to do so.

And in that role I will candidly admit to you that, as he was about leaving home, I gave Mr. Bigham a paper on what I had learned of that bribery and corruption fund, of which you are so desirous to learn something. Young people owe it to themselves to gain knowledge, you see, and older people are bound to help them.

Now I am sorry that in the haste of our parting I failed to take a copy of that paper. It was very bad in me to fail in this respect, no doubt; but then you see, I had no idea that you

would be so eager to learn about that corruption fund. I have, however, a fairly good memory, and can trust it to reproduce the paper in every essential detail; so here goes: I was in the office of my friend, Mr. A. H. King, on the afternoon of Friday, May 22, 1908, with Mr. W. Frazier Jones and Mr. Stevens, president of the Anti-Saloon League of Florida. Somewhat later we were joined by A. W. Cockrell, Esq. But before he found time to speak with us, Mr. — entered the room, and after some conversation he asked: "Have you gentlemen learned the amount sent into Florida by the distillers and brewers of the United States to influence the pending election?" We answered in the negative, though we were entirely satisfied that it was a very large sum. We had heard the names of those who had been sent, or at least had gone from Florida on that benevolent and patriotic mission. And so our friend, after first telling us how he had obtained this information (the matter was entirely honorable, and the information was very definite and reliable, as it seemed to us), said the aggregate was \$360,000, or about that. None of us were at all surprised, but all of us believed our friend to have sufficient evidence for what he had said. He is known to us and to the whole city as a man of intelligence, integrity and Christian faith, none of us expressed any doubt, and as for myself I felt as sure then, and so feel now, as if I had received the information at first hand; or, for that matter, as if I had added up the columns of figures, and had thus ascertained the sum total; I knew the gentleman, you see, Friend LaFontisee, and I trusted him exactly as every honest and sensible person in Jacksonville does.

You will observe, Mr. LaFontisee, that our friend had said nothing whatever about General Gilchrist personally. Nor did anybody else speak of him just then. Indeed, I do not now recall any mention of him in our conversation. But anybody with "half an eye" could see how this bribery fund was related to him. And when I gave my paper to Mr. Bigham I saw the logical and necessary connection between him and it, because I had then in my pocket a copy of a letter from a certain liquor house in Jacksonville to a certain citizen of Macclenny, Fla. I had seen the original of this letter, and of my own knowledge identified the correctness of the copy now lying on my table. It informed this man in Macclenny that a gallon of whiskey had been shipped to him, "express prepaid," and it requested him to use the whiskey to help in the election of "Gen. Gilchrist." That was enough. It made little difference to me after that how many thousands or hundreds of thousands of bribery and corruption money had been sent into Florida. My honored friend might possibly have been mistaken as to the sum mentioned by him; yes, possibly, but not probably; the number of dollars was a minor question then.

"But you have failed to connect our candidate with that whiskey, have you not? Did he know it was sent to the man in Macclenny?" Let us see. The matter has been thus dished about this city and state. I have been credibly informed what the head of that whiskey house has said about the uses made of that letter, but, this is the clincher, General Gilchrist, however good he may be in other respects (and I wish to detract nothing whatever from all the good alleged of him in other matters)—Gen. Gilchrist, I say, nor yet you, Mr. LaFontisee, his representative, as you have informed me; neither of you singly, nor both of you together have yet held up your hands in horror and indignation at the fact that his name, hitherto honored in Florida, has been thus publicly connected with an effort to corrupt the ballot box of his native state. No, sir; you and he have done nothing of this kind.

The ballot box is to Anglo-Saxon liberty and government very much what the sacred ark was to ancient Israel; to corrupt, that is to corrupt all. To degrade and ruin that is to degrade and ruin all. As I see things, this is the heart and soul of the pending issue. Stockton is as nothing. Gilchrist is as nothing. But a clean ballot box is as everything. God in his goodness gave me three noble brothers; only one is left to me now. One of the three fell on the bloody field of Frazier's Farm, in the defense of Richmond. Another received, nearly it, a terrible wound that disabled him for life. The youngest only remained, our Benjamin. He an honored doctor of divinity, now laboring manfully for Christ's crown and kingdom in Kentucky; but were he in Florida today, and could he stoop to receive silently the aid of corruption and bribery that he might sit in the governor's chair, I would repudiate him as sure as I live. I would cast my vote for a Seminole buck, fresh

from the Everglades, before I would help my only brother if he silently accepted such neip. I have two bright boys in Florida; they are gifted, highly educated, and honorable. By and by, if they continue as they have begun, they might, I think, aspire to any office in this or any state. But if I should be living when one or both of them make the attempt, and I did see one or both silently using aid which corrupts the ballot box, please God, I would repudiate my sons for such a foul wrong. I have never as yet voted for an African for any public office, but in such direful extremity, if I could find a tolerably decent African to vote for, I would vote for him rather than for a reprobate son, willing to sacrifice the honor of his state for a paltry office. I would do that very thing, so help me God. Stockton is nothing; Gilchrist is nothing; but the purity of the ballot box is everything. To keep the saloon power out of its attempted control of this state, that indeed is worth doing.

Yours for Florida and a pure ballot box.

(Signed) WILLIAM E. BOGGS.

N. B.—Since Friday, May 22, 1908, I have not exchanged a word with Mr. — about the amount of the bribery and corruption fund said to have been sent into Florida to control the pending elections. Nor, so far as I know, has Mr. Jones, Mr. Stewart, Mr. King or Mr. Cockrell. Indeed, we have had no communication whatsoever, either oral or written. Had I chosen to ask him to reiterate in this paper what he said then, I have no idea how he would regard the request. All these gentlemen will read these words, and did I misrepresent them in any way they will surely correct me. The facts are exactly as stated, and so shall they stand. I asked Mr. W. Frazier Jones to read my answer, and he agrees to what is in it.

(Signed) WILLIAM E. BOGGS.

Jacksonville, Fla., June 5, 1908.

Dr. W. E. Boggs, 325 Newnan street, Jacksonville, Fla.:

My Dear Dr. Boggs—I have not time to read your reply to my letter of yesterday in behalf of General Gilchrist. However, I have read your note, and rest assured that the entire correspondence will be published in full. I will have this done in the Times-Union, and if you can give me any paper which you prefer, please indicate in your reply.

Sincerely,  
J. O. LAFONTISEE.

Jacksonville, Fla., June 8, 1908.

Rev. William E. Boggs, No. 325 Newnan street, Jacksonville, Fla.:

My Dear Sir—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed favor of the 4th in answer to my letter of inquiry to you of the same date asking your source of information for the statement made by Rev. J. W. Bigham as to the alleged \$360,000 sent into the state to elect Gilchrist, he having given you as his authority for the same. I advised you at the time that the correspondence was intended for publication, and your answer admits two things.

1st. That you did give Mr. Bigham the information.

2nd. That you had nothing more to base it upon than the heresy statement of Mr. —.

Now, my dear sir, you take umbrage, that I denounced those statements as untrue, yet, your only justification is that Mr. — told you so in a casual conversation; yet, you gave out such a statement as an actual fact, and if Mr. Bigham is correct, this gossip caused fourteen ministers to sign and put out a statement to that effect, which has not only been published in the newspapers but circulated freely on printed form throughout the state, and used and is still being used by Mr. Bigham in political speeches in the different counties in behalf of Mr. Stockton and against General Gilchrist. I admit a certain amount of youth (I am 37 years of age); respect age and wisdom, and was taught to have a special regard for the sacredness of your calling; but I neglected to learn that either age or a ministerial cloak gave license to slander, or to blacken the character of the humblest citizen. The statement made by you in your letter that you had seen no denial by General Gilchrist or myself, seems pleaded now in justification or excuse, but one can hardly be called upon to deny a charge before it is made. Mr. Bigham's speech was made on the third. My letter denying it is dated the 4th, but even if a dignified silence had been maintained, would it excuse you, either personally or in your ministerial capacity for putting out a statement which was and is not true in itself, and which if you had investigated you would have so ascertained.

Fourteen ministers of the church, relying on this piece of gossip furnished by you, have lent themselves to a public attempt to blacken the character of a man who is your peer in every respect, morally and temperately, though he does not wear a clerical garb, and who took for his campaign

motto in the beginning: "Hear no Evil, See no Evil, Speak no Evil," and has adhered to it. May I ask which is worse, the corruption of the ballot by money, or by the promulgation of false statements? The charge against Gen. Gilchrist, emanating from you, is denied, and stands without proof. Your statement put out to influence the vote of the people, admitted to be gossip by you, faces you in every precinct and county in the state. One of the first lessons taught me by the church was against "Evil speaking," "Slander," "Gossip," and "Bearing False Witness Against My Neighbor." You almost shake my faith, as you must that of every man, if your present actions are to guide your flock.

I reiterate again that the statement made by Mr. Bigham, which you now admit you were authority for, is absolutely untrue. I have asked for the proof of the charge and am met by excuse and referred to a statement of a Mr. —, that he heard it, etc., and yet you have caused or allowed to be scattered broadcast over the state the bold statement that the liquor interests had put up \$360,000 to elect Gen. Gilchrist; attempted to blacken his character and inaugurate a crusade by the ministry against him in order to influence the people of the state, stir up strife and elect another man to office. No court would listen for a moment to such testimony, and yet, as a minister, you admit that before putting out this monstrous charge you failed to even ask a question or to ascertain, even in the most casual manner, if your Mr. — could possibly be mistaken. Had you done so, you might have also ascertained that Gen. Gilchrist knew nothing about that gallon of whiskey, had nothing more to do with it than you had, and had refused to use such methods from the very beginning. I am satisfied, sir, that had you investigated a little, there would have been no need for this correspondence, and I hope that a sense of justice will now cause you to publicly withdraw the charges made.

I have the honor to remain,  
Yours truly,  
J. O. LAFONTISEE.

To the Democratic Voters of the Fifth Commissioner's District

Fellow Citizens—I wish to express to you my thanks and appreciation for the very flattering vote you gave me on May the 19th, for commissioner from this district. If elected I promise an honest and faithful effort in the performance of the duties of said office. Respectfully,  
W. J. CROSBY.

Citra, Fla., June 4, 1908.

## WOMAN!

The sea glittered in the spring sunshine, and looking at the multitude of women in their splendid Easter array, the philosopher said:

"Woman—men like to ponder her. You could fill a book with proverbs and saws about woman."

"The Greeks say love is blind, but marriage is clear-sighted enough, and they add that after three days the most troublesome things in the world are rain, a guest and a wife."

"The Persians say: Always consult your wife, and then go and do as you please. They say, too: Many wives are a good thing, for while they quarrel you are left in peace."

"A German will tell you that a woman and a stove ought not to stir out of the house."

"The Indians say that you test gold by applying acid, the strength of a camel by loading it, a man's character by listening to him, and a woman's thoughts—"By Allah," they break off, "it cannot be done."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

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